

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORTS

OF THE

Town of Weston,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING

March 31, 1866.



BOSTON:

J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 65 CORNHILL.

1866.

REPORTS

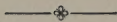
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THE TOWN OF WESTON
GEOGRAPHICAL
AND
HISTORICAL
DESCRIPTION
BY
ALFRED R. HARRIS
OF
WESTON, MASS.
PUBLISHED BY
THE
WESTON TOWN OFFICE
1880

OFFICERS
OF
THE TOWN OF WESTON.
1866.

Selectmen,

ALONZO S. FISKE, INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.
BENJAMIN F. CUTTER.

Overseers of Poor,

ALONZO S. FISKE, BENJAMIN PIERCE,
NATHAN BARKER.

School Committee,

CALVIN H. TOPLIFF, 3 years, EDWIN HOBBS, 2 years,
ISAAC COBURN, 1 year.

Library Committee,

CALVIN H. TOPLIFF, NAHUM SMITH,
JOHN COBURN.

Assessors.

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWIN HOBBS,
NAHUM SMITH.

Constables,

NATHAN BARKER, HORACE HEWS,
BENJAMIN PIERCE.

Burial Ground Committee,

EDWIN HOBBS, CALVIN H. TOPLIFF,
ISAAC COBURN.

Town Clerk,

GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF WESTON.

Treasurer and Collector,
HORACE HEWS.

—
Highway Surveyors,

District No. 1. CHARLES DUNN,
“ “ 2. EDWARD E. BROWN,
“ “ 3. JOHN CARTER,
“ “ 4. ALONZO S. FISKE,
“ “ 5. CHARLES A. WARREN,
“ “ 6. SAMUEL F. CLARK.

—
Measurers of Wood,

GEORGE W. CUTTING, GEORGE GARFIELD,
EDWARD E. BROWN, WILLIAM H. FLOYD,
GEORGE W. DUNN, ALPHEUS MORSE,
HORACE LEADBETTER.

—
Surveyors of Lumber,

GEORGE GARFIELD, DANIEL SMITH.

—
Fence Viewers,

NATHAN BARKER, ALONZO S. FISKE,
ISAAC COBURN.

—
Field Drivers,

THEODORE JONES, GEORGE G. CHENEY.

—
Library Treasurer,
HORACE HEWS.

—
Librarian,
JOHN COBURN.

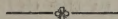
—
Liquor Agent,
JOEL UPHAM.

—
Pound Keeper,
GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF WESTON.



The Selectmen of Weston submit the following Report for the year ending March 5th, 1866, and also their estimate of expenditures for the ensuing year.

The incidental expenses of the town have been kept within the estimates of one year ago, and the appropriations made therefor. Two thousand dollars of the town debt has been paid, and about nine hundred dollars remain in the Treasury, including the balance of taxes unsettled. For the exact state of our finances we would refer to the forthcoming Treasurer's Report.

ESTIMATES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

We recommend that the following sums be granted for the ensuing year:—

For Schools, the same as last year, . . .	\$2,000 00
“ Highways, to be divided as last year, . . .	1,200 00
“ Support of poor, interest and incidentals, . . .	3,300 00
	<hr/>
Making in all, . . .	\$6,500 00

We estimate that the Corporation Tax, which is assessed by the State, will bring into our Treasury the ensuing year one thousand dollars; deducting this sum from the above estimates, we

have left five thousand and five hundred dollars. We, therefore, recommend that there be raised, by taxation on the Assessors list, for the current expenses of the town for the coming year, \$5,500 00.

As has been remarked previously, the debt has been reduced the past year two thousand dollars. It now amounts to fifteen thousand two hundred dollars. Of this sum, three thousand five hundred dollars become due September, 1867, and a note of one thousand dollars is on demand. It seems desirable that some provision should be made to meet these debts, and we would recommend a grant of fifteen hundred dollars for the extinguishment of the town debt.

The whole amount for defraying the necessary expenses of the town, and for the payment of the debt, would be \$7,000 00
 This sum being less than the amount granted for the
 same purposes last year by 1,000 00

Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.,	
HORACE HEWS,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Weston.</i>

REPORT

OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.



THE Overseers of the Poor submit to the town the following Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the pauper establishment for the year ending March 5th, 1866.

RECEIPTS.

For beef and calves,	\$108 25
“ eggs and poultry,	56 35
“ butter and milk,	99 92
“ hay and straw,	120 14
“ sundry articles,	115 25
“ labor of Superintendent of farm,	39 50
“ board of K. H. Stratford to Feb. 6th,	48 00
From Town Treasury,	948 43
	<hr/>
	\$1,525 84

EXPENDITURES.

Paid H. Wheeler, Superintendent, services one year,	\$275 00
“ for meat and fish,	122 00
“ for pigs,	18 00
“ for pasturing,	19 20
“ for grass seed and other seeds, potatoes, &c.	53 56
“ for shoes and clothing,	65 50
“ for bedsteads and bedding,	45 95
“ for wheelwright's repairs,	13 25
	<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$612 46

	<i>Amount brought up,</i>	\$612 46
Paid for lumber and repairs on shed and barn,	.	\$12 59
“ for manure fork, shovel and sundry tools,	.	19 43
“ for meal, brewer’s grains and scraps,	.	71 20
“ for labor,	.	86 00
“ for coal,	.	57 62
“ for manure,	.	23 12
“ for blacksmithing,	.	28 00
“ for groceries,	.	226 71
“ for sundry expenses,	.	23 99
“ for covered wagon,	.	120 00
“ Dr. J. T. Coolidge, for medical services,	.	15 00
“ Vermont Asylum, for expenses of Wm. Fiske,	.	161 57
“ for coffin, robe, and transportation of body of Wm. Fiske,	.	22 15
“ for assistance rendered Mrs. Wm. Harrington,	.	26 00
“ Overseers, for their services,	.	30 00
		<hr/> \$1,535 84

The inmates of the Almshouse remain the same as last year ; their general health has been good, though none are able to perform much labor. Wm. Fiske died at Brattleboro’, Vt., the 19th day of February last, and his body was brought to Weston for interment.

Thirty-five individuals have been temporarily relieved during the past year.

The products of the farm have not been reduced so low as is usual at this season, which, with the amount brought on, makes the sum of the personal property greatly excel the average of previous years.

Respectfully submitted by,

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Overseers of the Poor.</i>
MARSHALL CUTTING,	
EDWARD COBURN,	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

—◆—

The undersigned, Treasurer of Weston, submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

HORACE HEWS.

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1866.

Receipts.

Balance in the Treasury, March 15, 1865, . . .	\$129 13
Charles A. Warren, for old plank, . . .	5 00
Holyoke Insurance Co., dividend, . . .	18 75
Joel Upham, Liquor Agent, . . .	21 48
George W. Cutting, weighing fees, . . .	27 26
Edward L. Cutting, rent of Town Hall, . . .	10 40
First National Bank, Cambridge, interest on deposit, . . .	26 50
Burial lots, . . .	2 50
State of Massachusetts, School Fund, . . .	57 57
“ “ “ State Aid refunded for the	
year 1864, . . .	700 00
“ “ “ Corporation Tax, . . .	1,237 31
Waltham Bank, temporary loan, . . .	2,000 00
Horace Hewes, Collector, Taxes, 1865, . . .	13,511 94
“ “ “ 1864, . . .	416 18
“ “ “ 1863, . . .	26 34
	\$18,190 36

Schedule of Expenditures.

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Paid School Committee,	\$2,057 57
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FOR SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid Overseers of Poor,	\$948 43
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FOR REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

Nathan Barker, District No. 1, . . .	\$301 00
Edward L. Brown, “ “ 2, . . .	246 30
George W. Dunn, “ “ 3, . . .	100 00
Alonzo S. Fiske, “ “ 4, . . .	234 30
Charles A. Warren, “ “ 5, . . .	227 85
Samuel F. Clarke, “ “ 6, . . .	123 20
	\$1,232 65

FOR BRIDGES, AND EXTRA REPAIRS ON ROADS.

Charles A. Warren, planking bridge near house of John Roberts,	\$42 89	
Charles A. Warren, planking Starr's bridge,	100 83	
Charles A. Warren, Railing Road near the house of A. Warren,	16 00	
A. B. Carter, planking bridge at Stony Brook,	36 50	
Nathan Barker, laying drain near house of George Sparhawk,	23 50	
Isaac Coburn, relaying drain near house of E. Coburn,	16 00	
		<u>\$235 82</u>

FOR REPAIRS ON TOWN BUILDINGS.

Edwin Hobbs, repairs on School-houses 1 and 5,	\$5 75	
Abijah Gregory, setting glass and painting blackboard,	9 88	
Calvin H. Topliff, repairing School-houses,	34 16	
Edwin Hobbs, repairing School-house No 5,	51 51	
		<u>\$101 30</u>

FOR STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

State Tax,	5,123 00	
County Tax,	790 41	
		<u>\$5,913 41</u>

FOR LOANS AND INTEREST.

Waltham Bank loan,	\$2,000 00	
Lewis Jones Trustee loan,	500 00	
Temporary " in part,	300 00	
Otis E. Hunt Trustee "	1,000 00	
Henry A. Tucker "	100 00	
Elizabeth J. Patch "	100 00	
Interest,	958 47	
		<u>\$4,958 47</u>

FOR SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

C. H. Topliff, superintending schools,	\$30 00	
Edwin Hobbs, " "	25 00	
Isaac Coburn, " "	25 00	
Alonzo S. Fiske, Assessor,	75 00	
Abijah Coburn, " "	30 00	
Edwin Hobbs, " "	30 00	
Alonzo S. Fiske, Selectman,	35 00	
Increase Leadbetter, Jr., "	25 00	
Horace Hews, " "	25 00	
John Coburn, Librarian,	50 00	
George W. Cutting, Jr., Town Clerk, and items furnished,	46 67	
Joel Upham, Liquor Agent,	30 00	
Horace Hews, Treasurer and Collector,	175 00	
		<u>\$601 67</u>

FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Isaac Coburn, items for schools,	\$8 65	
Edwin Hobbs, care of school-room, District No. 5,	6 00	
Isaac Coburn, " " and repairs,	4 00	
C. H. Topliff, " school-rooms, " "	16 75	
J. M. Hewes, printing Town Reports,	76 18	
Alonzo S. Fiske, time and expenses in recovering E. Hastings' horse,	10 46	
Joel Upham, license of Liquor Agent,	25 00	
A. L. Jewett, eagle for flagstaff,	15 00	
J. Hastings, printing,	2 75	
Nichols & Noyes, ink and crayons,	11 25	
Josiah Hastings, printing,	16 31	
George W. Cutting & Son, items for Town-House and schools,	45 79	
Fitz A. Robinson, repairs on Town-House,	50	
Alonzo S. Fiske, stamps and stationery,	13 65	
C. H. Topliff, items for schools,	19 43	
" " school books,	12 05	
Edwin Hobbs, stove and items for school-house No. 3,	16 00	
Traders and Mechanics Insurance Co., insurance on Town-House,	76 00	
Horace Hews, filling pit of old hay scales, and items,	13 87	
Josiah Hastings, order book for Selectmen,	5 50	
J. M. Hewes, printing Teachers' Reports,	7 75	
Daniel Smith, guide boards and setting post,	4 50	
T. B. Jones, painting guide boards	6 00	
Edward Pierce, wood for Town-House and items,	6 25	
Town of Lincoln, tax,	12 65	
Theodore Jones, returning deaths,	1 50	
Alonzo S. Fiske, running line and setting stone near Almshouse,	4 50	
George W. Cutting, Jr., constable,	4 00	
Edward E. Cutting, care of Town-Hall,	15 00	
Selectmen, running line between Needham and Weston,	30 00	
Library Committee, expenses purchasing books,	4 00	
George W. Cutting, ringing bell,	1 50	
Rufus Stickney, funnel,	2 84	
Town Library,	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$545 63

FOR BURIAL GROUNDS.

Burial Ground Committee,	\$72 44
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FOR VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

State aid,	\$196 65	
Special aid to families of volunteers and expenses therefor,	134 25	
	<hr/>	\$330 90

FOR DISCOUNTS.

Discount on taxes paid Oct. 1st, and prior to that date,	596 08	
Discount on taxes paid from Oct. 2d to Jan. 1st, inclusive,	95 07	
	<hr/>	\$691 15

FOR ABATEMENTS.

Abatement of taxes, 1864,	\$12 65	
“ “ “ 1865,	41 60	
	<hr/>	\$54 25
Amount of payments,	\$17,743 69	
Balance in treasury,	446 67	
	<hr/>	18,190 36

TAXES UNCOLLECTED.

Taxes for 1861, S. W. Brown,	\$4 76	
“ “ 1865,	437 50	
	<hr/>	\$442 26

SCHEDULE OF TOWN DEBT.

Bonds of the town,	\$8,450 00	
Weston Town Library,	1,300 00	
Estate of A. H. Fiske,	3,500 00	
Theodore Jones, Guardian,	1,000 00	
Lewis Jones, Executor,	750 00	
Temporary Loan, balance,	200 00	
	<hr/>	\$15,200 00

PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN.

Town-House.
Six School-houses.
Almshouse and sixty-eight acres of land, with stock and tools.

VALUATION OF THE TOWN.

Real Estate,	\$548,667 00	
Personal Estate,	416,800 00	
	<hr/>	\$965,467 00

STATE, COUNTY AND TOWN TAX.

Amount of Tax assessed in 1865,	\$13,949 44	
Rate per cent. \$13.80 per \$1,000.		
Corporation Tax,	1,237 31	
	<hr/>	\$15,186 75

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

We, the subscribers, Selectmen of Weston, have examined the foregoing account, and find the same well vouched and correctly cast.

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Selectmen</i> of <i>Weston.</i>
INCREASE LEADBETTER, JR.	
BENJAMIN F. CUTTER,	

REPORT

OF

LIBRARY TREASURER.



HORACE HEWS, *in account with the* WESTON TOWN LIBRARY.

DR.

Balance from former account,	\$3 87	
Appropriation of town for Library,	50 00	
Town of Weston, interest on Library Fund, . .	78 00	
Received of Librarian, fines,	1 92	
	<hr/>	\$133 79

CR.

Paid Nichols & Noyes, for books,	\$111 91	
“ Charles A. Brackett, for rebinding books, .	8 40	
“ for Expressing,	50	
Balance in Treasury,	12 98	
	<hr/>	\$133 79

LIBRARY FUND.

Town of Weston, “Merriam Fund,”	\$1000 00	
“ “ “ “Fiske Fund,”	300 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,300 00

R E P O R T

O N

B U R I A L G R O U N D S .



The Committee on Burial Grounds present their Annual Report.

Little has been done the past year except to finish the improvements commenced the year before, and the ordinary labor required for the care of the grounds. This has consumed nearly all the appropriation for this object. There are other labors which, it is hoped, the Committee will be enabled to do the ensuing year.

The appropriation for Burial Grounds was \$75.00. We have paid for labor and materials as follows :—

Paid for 21 days' labor,	.	.	.	.	.	\$41 83
“ pump for well,	.	.	.	.	.	12 75
“ lumber,	.	.	.	.	.	1 52
“ phosphate of lime,	.	.	.	.	.	10 46
“ teaming,	.	.	.	.	.	1 00
“ grass seed,	.	.	.	.	.	1 45
“ sundry items,	.	.	.	.	.	3 43
						\$72 44

EDWIN HOBBS, *Chairman.*

REPORT

OF

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

— ♦ —

TO THE CITIZENS OF WESTON :—

THE year which now closes its record, has been marked by no extraordinary event in the administration of our public schools. Their general structure remains the same as in former years, with the exception that we have sought gradually to raise the standard of scholarship required of those that enter the High School.

The amount of money appropriated for the payment of teachers, for fuel and the care of school-rooms, was . \$2,000 00
 Received from the State School Fund, . . . 57 57

The whole sum placed at our disposal has been expended for schools. The first term of the High School was in charge of Mr. E. H. Davis, at a salary of \$600 per year; the second and third, it was in charge of Miss Almy, with an assistant, at a salary of \$400 per year for the Principal, and \$280 per year for the Assistant. We have paid the teachers in the several districts \$200 per year, with the exception of the teacher in School No. 4, which is the largest in town. Her salary has been slightly increased during a part of the year.

We have paid for fuel, \$220 35
 For care of rooms and making fires, 73 50
 The whole number of scholars connected with our
 schools, is 222
 Daily average attendance, each term, 188
 Number of scholars under five years of age, 5
 Number over fifteen years of age, 32

About twenty of the scholars' parents have visited the schools each term.

The following scholars have been neither absent nor tardy during the year :—

Minnie C. Burt,	in School No. 2
Annie C. Coburn,	“ “ No. 4
Mattie A. R. Harrington,	“ “ No. 6
Ira E. Clark,	“ “ “ “

This is the second year in which the last named scholar has had a perfect record of attendance. Fredie H. Hagar, in School No. 1, was not absent during the year, but had one tardy mark, and seven others had no absences for two terms. The tardy marks amount to 596, and by reference to the register, it appears that 115 are divided between four scholars.

SCHOOL NO. 1. EAST CENTRE DISTRICT.

This school has been under the care of Miss E. A. Weston for the past seven years. Her government has been mild, but firm and judicious, and the school prosperous during the whole time of her connection with it. It has always been characterized by neatness in the school-room, and the general good order of the school. The teacher has devoted herself so assiduously to the interests of the school, that her health has become impaired, and leave of absence for a term at least is necessary for her to recruit her exhausted energies. We are not disappointed to learn that there is a universal feeling of regret in the district in view of losing her services even one term, and the sincerest sympathy manifested for her, attended with more substantial tokens of the high esteem in which she is held by both parents and scholars.

The Committee were never better satisfied with the appearance of the school than at the last examination. As prominent among the exercises they would mention the spelling classes, which acquitted themselves with honor. More than usual attention had been given to this branch during the term, and the result showed that labor had not been bestowed in vain. We would also refer to the classes in reading as being very good. The writing books exhibited commendable progress, together with neatness and care-

ful usage. We would not forget the singing, which was unusually good, being participated in by nearly every scholar.

In statistics this school presents an improvement on last year's record.

Whole number of scholars,	40
Daily average attendance each term,	34
Percentage of attendance (4 per cent. gain over last year,)	106
Tardy marks (34 less than last year,)	57
Average per term not tardy,	28
Average per term not absent,	3

SCHOOL NO. 2. WEST CENTRE DISTRICT.

This school has enjoyed a long term of uninterrupted prosperity. It has been under the excellent management of Miss Hannah Maria Jones for the past nine years. The relation between teacher and parents and scholars has always been pleasant, and highly conducive to success in the school-room. Obedience has been cheerful and prompt, rendered through affection rather than fear. So pleasant has been the relation of teacher and scholars, that from love for each other, they have each sought to lighten the burden of the other. What has been said of No 1, in regard to order and neatness in the school-room, may justly apply to this school also.

The school appeared exceedingly well at the last examination, showing very clearly that there was no abatement of interest, on the part of teacher and scholars, on account of their long connection with each other. The classes in Reading and in Mental Arithmetic were among the prominent excellencies of the school. The Committee regretted the necessity of closing the exercises before all the classes had been heard.

Here we wish, for the benefit of all teachers, to reveal one secret of the increasing success and prosperity of those teachers who have continued in the same schools five, seven and nine years respectively. They have been constant and careful students in their profession, omitting no opportunity for improve-

ment. They have sought familiarity with educational journals and publications, and, whenever practicable, have attended "Teachers' Institutes" and Conventions for the interchange of views, and the consideration of imparting instruction and conducting recitations. The successful teacher must ever be a humble learner.

Whole number of scholars,	30
Daily average attendance each term,	23
Percentage of attendance (about as last year,)	100 ⁸⁰ / ₁₀₀
Tardy marks (71 less than last year,)	54
Average per term not tardy,	18
Average per term not absent,	3

SCHOOL No. 3. NORTH WEST DISTRICT.

The Spring Term of this school was taught by Miss Wellie A. Jones, whose services were highly acceptable to the Committee and to the parents in the district. But declining to remain in the school after the close of the first term, her place was supplied by Miss Hannah L. Parmenter. Miss Parmenter entered upon her duties,—it being her first effort,—without that knowledge of the profession of teaching which very much helps to render the duties of the school-room pleasant and easy. She labored faithfully for the best interests of the school, but failed, for some reason, to secure that order and discipline which are essential to the highest good of a school. She has correct and elevated views of the office of a teacher, and with the experience she has had, we have no doubt but that she may give entire satisfaction in another school, which may be in a condition more favorable to success than the one in which her first effort was made. At the closing examination it could be seen that some scholars had made good progress, while others had failed of what seemed to be within their reach.

Whole number of scholars,	20
Daily average attendance each term,	13
Percentage of attendance (5 per cent. loss,)	100 ⁸⁶ / ₁₀₀
Tardy marks (46 less than last year,)	126
Average per term not tardy,	5
Average per term not absent,	1

SCHOOL No. 4. NORTH EAST DISTRICT.

This, for several years, has been the largest of our District Schools, and, at the time of making our last report, was under the care of Miss Ellen E. Childs, of Waltham. But the offer of more pay in her own town tempted her, at the close of the Spring term, to leave a place where she was happily united with parents and scholars. The Committee were fortunate, however, in securing the services of Miss Mary O. Brooks, a graduate of the Normal School at Framingham. By her excellent executive ability she seems to be admirably fitted for a large school, and has proved herself to be an able and efficient teacher. We are highly pleased with her method of imparting instruction, and the progress which the school has made under her judicious management. She has labored with untiring industry, and we report the school as being in a very satisfactory condition at the close of the year. For punctuality and regularity of attendance, this school has held a high position for several years past, and the present record shows that it maintains its enviable situation.

Whole number of scholars,	50
Daily average attendance each term,	40
Percentage of attendance (4 per cent. loss,)	98%
Tardy marks (25 less than last year,)	26
Average per term not tardy,	40
Average per term not absent,	6

SCHOOL No. 5. SOUTH EAST DISTRICT.

This school through the year has been under the care of Miss Harriet A. Coburn, a graduate of the Framingham Normal School, and an experienced teacher. The Committee have always found the school in excellent order, and have been fully convinced that the scholars were making good progress in their studies. Miss Coburn has taken great pains with each scholar, and has been most lucid and full in her explanations and illustrations of the lessons. We have noticed a very decided improvement in the reading in this school within the year past. The closing examination showed that all had been accomplished in the school

which could reasonably be expected, and the friends present, as well as the Committee, were well pleased with the exercises.

A remarkable circumstance, worthy of special mention in connection with this school, is, that not a tardy mark was found on the register for the last term, and only seven for the year.

Whole number of scholars,	17
Daily average attendance each term,	14
Percentage of attendance (same as last year,)	$\frac{84}{100}$
Tardy marks (16 less than last year,)	7
Average per term not tardy,	14
Average per term not absent,	1

SCHOOL No. 6. SOUTH WEST DISTRICT.

Miss Ellen M. Hoar, with the past term, completed her fifth year in this school, and we are happy to be able to say, that from the commencement of her connection with it to the present time, the character and scholarship of the school has been steadily advancing. The mode of study and the method of training and discipline have been judicious and sound. Parents have kindly co-operated with the teacher and aided essentially the advancement and general interests of the school.

On account of the considerable distance which some of the scholars in this district live from the centre of the town, the school is not so thoroughly graded as the schools in the other districts. It contained last term some six or eight scholars sufficiently advanced for the High School, and who would find it very much for their advantage to connect themselves with it.

The closing examination exhibited the combined interest which teacher, parents and scholars all felt in having the school do itself credit, and none were disappointed in the result.

Whole number of scholars,	30
Daily average attendance each term,	21
Percentage of attendance (4 per cent. gain,)	$\frac{91}{100}$
Tardy marks (12 less than last year,)	47
Average per term not tardy,	18
Average per term not absent,	4

HIGH SCHOOL.

In submitting our report of the condition of the High School, it seems necessary that we should make a brief statement of the reason for the change of female for male teacher, which we have made during the past year. At the close of the First Term Mr. Davis resigned his place because of insufficient pay, and readily obtained a school in a neighboring town at a salary of \$1,000 per year. We could pay no more than about \$600, and after repeated efforts we found it vain to hope to secure a good male teacher for that sum. After taking counsel of out of town gentlemen whose judgment is of value in educational matters, on account of the position they occupy and the experience they have had, we decided, as an experiment, to employ two females instead of one male teacher; for so disproportionate is the compensation between male and female labor in the school-room, and perhaps not greater there than in other departments of industry, that a sum which was regarded as meagre pay for an *ordinary* male teacher, is considered fair compensation for *two first class female* teachers.

Upon the strong recommendation of Mr. A. G. Boyden, Principal of the Bridgewater Normal School, and the concurrent testimonial of the ex-chairman of the School Board of New Bedford, we appointed Miss Abbie S. Almy, of New Bedford, as Principal, and Miss Esther M. Cook, as Assistant. Miss Cook had less thoroughly prepared herself for this grade of school, and was also less experienced in teaching. At the close of the Fall Term, she received the appointment of principalship in a school in New Bedford, and, therefore, withdrew herself from our school. Through the recommendation and agency of Mr. Northrup, Agent of the Board of Education, we were most happy in securing Miss Mary D. Marshall, a most excellent and experienced teacher.

The result of the experiment,—the labors of our female teachers have, we think, most fully confirmed the wisdom of our course; the very high testimonials we received of the ability of the teachers employed; and satisfied, we believe, the friends of the school that it has been, on the whole, as well managed as in former years under a male teacher; that the instruction has been as

thorough, and the progress of the scholars in their studies as great. We do not remember to have attended an examination of this school when every scholar in each of the classes seemed more familiar with their studies, or when a larger percentage of the answers were more correctly and promptly given, than at the last examination. We judge that one very considerable reason for the uniform excellence of the scholars is found in the fact, that recitations, since two teachers have been employed, have not been hurried. Sufficient time has been taken to make every point clear to what might be termed dull scholars. In former years, with one teacher, recitations had to be hurried, and classes were dismissed, for the want of time, before the object of the recitation had been fully secured to a portion of the class. These went from the recitation-seat with confused ideas of the lesson.

We are sorry to see, by the register, that the school has been very frequently disturbed, by what we must think has been due to negligence on the part of many of the scholars in entering the school late. While there has been, in every District School, a most commendable improvement in punctuality, there has been in the High School a most sad falling off.

The following table shows the number of days of absence,—number of tardy marks,—deportment and average scholarship for the last term. The highest excellence in study and deportment is indicated by 5, and the figures 4.7 and 4.8, against the first name, show that in deportment her standing was 4 and $\frac{7}{10}$, and in scholarship 4 and $\frac{8}{10}$.

	No. days Absent.	Tardy Marks.	Deport- ment.	Average Scholarship.
Mary B. Barker,	2	0	4.7	4.8
Lavinia B. Carter,	4	4	4.9	4.7
Emily F. Coburn,	18	2	5	4.8
Elizabeth A. Cooper,	1	1	4.5	4.6
Georgetta E. Cutter,	6	11	4.7	4.5
Arabell M. Dunn,	24	2	5	3.9
Almira E. Hagar,	12	5	4.3	4.7
S. Arabell Hastings,	5	2	4.4	4.7
Emma M. Jones,	5	0	4.8	4.8

	No. days Absent.	Tardy Marks.	Deport- ment.	Average Scholarship.
Clara J. Schwartz,	4	4	4.6	4.5
Mary A. Viles,	21	6	3.9	3.9
Olive R. Viles,	18	6	5	3.9
Ella M. Warren,	7	1	4.5	4.6
Sarah M. Warren,	15	2	4.2	4.5
Mary J. Washburn,	7	4	5	4.7
John C. Carter,	10	20	2.4	3.1
John Casey,	7	12	3.9	4.6
Michael Casey,	3	14	3.4	4.6
William J. Caswell,	0	4	3.4	3.9
Willard F. Cutter,	10	10	3.5	4.1
Edward L. Cutting,	10	11	3.6	4.3
Herbert F. Dunn,	22	1	—	—
Charles W. H. Ellis,	10	1	4.4	4.2
Charles W. Goddard,	16	6	2.9	4.4
Edward W. Hastings,	6	0	4.9	4.7
Lewis M. Hastings,	9	0	3.8	3.7
Charles F. Jones,	1	0	4.9	4.5
Joseph S. B. Knox,	7	20	3.5	4
Charles H. Reed,	14	6	3.4	4.2
Louis E. Roberts,	8	6	3.5	4.1
Charles E. Smith,	6	3	4.3	4.6
Walter L. Smith,	5	1	3.6	3.8
Howard L. Stone,	18	3	3.8	3.4
Henry R. Stone,	16	4	3.2	4.2
Herman Train,	1	2	3.9	4.6
Albert G. Upham,	7	0	4.9	4.6
Herbert J. Upham,	6	1	4.5	4.7
Francis G. Washburn,	2	4	4.5	4.5

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